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Rural District of Morpeth

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year

1959

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present to you my report, together with that of the Public Health Inspector, for the year 1959.

The vital statistics are fairly satisfactory. The birth rate fell slightly but was still higher than that for the country as a whole. The death rate and infantile mortality rate also declined but were still higher than the corresponding figures. The still-birth rate rose quite substantially.

It is noteworthy that only two cases of tuberculosis - one respiratory and one non-respiratory - were notified and np death occurred from this disease.

The total number of deaths from malignant neoplasms declined by 3 but this was due to a reduction of 9 in the male deaths while the female deaths actually increased by 6. The death rate from this cause was less than the national death rate.

There are grounds for satisfaction in the fact that, as is mentioned in the report, the Broomhill area was, at long last, provided with a water supply, adequate both in quality and quantity. There is satisfaction, too, in the prospect that the south western parishes, for so long so poorly supplied, will have a greatly improved water supply in the near future.

It is regrettable, however, that following a year in which no Council houses at all were built, only 4 were erected in 1959. The housing problem remains a substantial one.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Councillors for their continuing interest in the work of the Public Health Department and to thank the officials and staffs of all departments of the Council for the assistance and co-operation they have so readily given me, whenever necessary. Particularly is acknowledgement due to Mr. Webb, who during 1959, must have felt, at many times, well-nigh overwhelmed by the amount of work which devolved upon him and who, nevertheless, carried out his duties admirably.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.
Rural District of Morpeth.

R U R A L D I S T R I C T O F M O R P E T H.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.	CATHERINE B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer.	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health) Housing)Inspector. Meat.)	MR. W. G. WEBB, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Meat Insepctor's Certs.
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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The acreage and boundaries remained unchanged in 1959 but, according to the Registrar-General's estimate, the population declined by 670. This is difficult to understand as no considerable exodus of people was noted and the number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 129.

There was no change in the nature of the employment open to the residents in the area.

As forecast in the report for 1958, the water supply position has greatly improved in the Broomhill area and is likely to be greatly improved, in the near future, in the south western parishes. Thereafter the only area still poorly supplied will be that in the neighbourhood of Causey Park, Earsdon and Eshott.

Area in Acres----------	79,193
Registar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1959----------	17,420
Rateable Value----------	£196,042
One Penny Rate Produces----------	£ 784-17-11.864d
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959)----------	5,152

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

The figures in brackets are the corresponding rates for E. & W.

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate----------	289	168	121
Illegitimate----------	11	5	6
	300	173	127

Crude Birth Rate---------- 17,22 per 1,000

Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.06 per 1,000) 18.25 (16.5)

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate	12	7	5

Rate per 1,000 (live & still) Births---------- 38.46 (20.7)

Rate per 1,000 of the population---------- 0.69

DEATHS.

Total	Male	Female.
171	96	75

Crude Death Rate---------- 9.82

Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.24) 12.17 (11.6)

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) Births. Nil (0.38)

Death Rate of Infants under 1 Year.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	23.33 (22)
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	24.22
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks. 20.00

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	Male	Fenale.
Legitimate----------	4	3

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.	Male	Fenale.
Legitimate----------	3	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live Births)	20.00
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births)	16.67
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths & Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	54.49

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

	CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis (respiratory)	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis (other forms)	-	-
3.	Syphillitic Disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasms Stomach	4	3
11.	" " Lung and Bronchus	3	-
12.	" " Breast	-	3
13.	" " Uterus	-	3
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	7
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16.	Diabetes	1	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	10
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	24	12
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1
20.	Other Heart Diseases	10	15
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	4	2
22.	Influenza	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	2	2
24.	Bronchitis	7	2
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-
28.	Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	-
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations	1	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	9	7
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	2
34.	All other Accidents	1	3
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
		96	75

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT.

	Total number	% of total Deaths.
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	69	40.35
Malignant Neoplasms	29	16.96
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	21	12.28
Total	119	69.59

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1959.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 day	1-6 days	1-2 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 mnth	1-2 months.	3-5 months.	6-8 months.	9-11 months.	Total under 1 year
Prematurity.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Abnormality	-	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	3
Suffocation.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Atelectasis.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
TOTAL.	3	2	-	1	6	-	-	1	-	7

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Enteritis under 2 years.	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Infantile Deaths under 1 year.	12	10	7	5	4	7	8	8	11	7
Infantile Mortality.	40.26	38.02	24.22	16.45	13.75	26.12	28.57	25.08	33.03	23.

S E C T I O N B .

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician.	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis.	3	not available.
General Practitioner.	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis.	1	"
General Practitioner.	Swabs for Vincent's organisms.	-	16
General Practitioner.	Swabs for haemolytic streptococci	10	17
General Practitioner.	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae.	-	21
General Practitioner.	Swabs for C. Albicans.	1	-
General Practitioner.	Swabs for Coagulase Positive Staphylococci.	5	8
Medical Officer of Health.	Faeces for pathogenic organisms.	101	204
County Medical Officer.	Faeces for pathogenic organisms.	3	-
General Practitioner.	Faeces for pathogenic organisms.	26	2
Regional Hospital Board Physician.	Faeces for Food Poisoning organisms.	2	-
Medical Officer of Health.	Specimens of food for Food poisoning organisms.	-	3
Medical Officer of Health.	Faeces for virus examination.	-	10

18, sensitivity tests were carried out.

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances and three drivers are stationed at Broomhill.

Other parts of the Rural District are served by ambulances stationed at Ashington and Morpeth

Nursing in the Home.

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by Northumberland County Council and nurse mid-wives are stationed as follows:

Scotsgap	1	Meldon	1
Felton	1	Broomhill	1
Widdrington	1	Lynemouth	1

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscott districts are served by three nurse-midwives based at Morpeth.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and Clinics are held at the following places and times.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Acklington (Aerodrome)	alternate Tuesdays	- 1.30-4.p.m.
Cambo Village Hall	Thursday-4 wkly intervals	- 1.30-4.p.m.
Linton Miners' Welfare	alternate Fridays	- 9.30-12noon.
Longhorsley, Rose Cottage	Tuesday -4 wkly intervals	- 1.30-4.p.m.
Lynemouth Methodist Church Hall	alternate Tuesdays	-9.30-12noon- 1.30-4.p.m.
Pegswood, The Old School	alternate Tuesdays	-9.30-12noon- 1.30-4.p.m.
South Broomhill, Hadstone Road	every Wednesday	-9.30-12noon- 1.30-4.p.m.
Widdrington Social Club.	every Wednesday	-1.30-4.p.m.

Toddlers' Clinic.

South Broomhill, Hadstone Road	Wednesday-4 wkly intervals	- 9.30 - 12 noon.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Lynemouth Methodist Church Hall	Tuesday - 4 wkly intervals	- 1.30 - 4.p.m.
South Broomhill, Hadstone Road	Wednesday - 4 wkly intervals	- 9.30 - 12 noon.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Lynemouth Methodist Church Hall	Tuesday - 4 wkly intervals	- 1.30 - 4.p.m.
Acklington (Aerodrome)	Tuesday - 4 wkly intervals	- 1.30 - 4.p.m.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

Great progress was made in 1959, towards providing improved water supplies in the Rural District, particularly in two areas which have, in the past, been inadequately served, viz; the South-West Parishes and Broomhill.

South-West Water Scheme.

As stated in the report for 1958, agreement was reached early in 1959, on a scheme to be carried out by Tynemouth Corporation on behalf of Morpeth Rural District Council to bring a main water supply to this poorly supplied part of the Rural District. i.e., the parishes of Netherwitton, Hartburn, Meldon and the eastern part of Wallington Demesne.

This scheme which included the construction of a reservoir near Hillend House, Longwitton received County Council approval in March, 1959 and Ministry of Housing and Local Government approval in June 1959. Work on the laying of mains began in August and was completed by the end of the year, by which time, more than 18 miles of main had been laid. Work on the reservoir began in November. The estimated cost of the scheme was £75,200.

Broomhill. In February 1959 a plan was prepared, for the extension of Tynemouth Corporation's water-main from Widdrington to supply the Broomhill Area. Ministry approval was given in March and the work was very speedily carried out by Tynemouth Corporation's direct labour force. The installation was complete and in operation by June 1959. From that time the whole of the Broomhill Area has been supplied by the Tynemouth main and the Rural District Council has been able to dispense with the Amble Urban District Council's supply.

This, together with the laying of new mains and interconnection with the Rural District Council's existing mains, eliminated long-standing complaints about the poor quality and the inadequacy of the water supply in the area.

Lynemouth

Additional mains were laid in Lynemouth and interconnected with the old ones, the work being completed in April. This improved the position but during the course of the operations it was found that many of the old 3" pipes were so badly encrusted as to have their capacity reduced to about 50% of the original.

Water Samples.

Twenty-five samples of private and public water supplies were collected and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Newcastle-upon-Tyne for bacteriological examination and the following table gives the results together with the date and place of collection.

Date.	Place of Collection.	Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.
26-5-59	Tap in centre cottage Hagg Farm Causey Park, Morpeth.	1
26-5-59	Direct from Shallow Well, Causey Park Bridge	Nil
2-6-59	Open Pipe End, Village Green, Cresswell	Nil
2-6-59	Tap, Caretaker's Dwelling, Caravan Site, Cresswell.	Nil
17-6-59	Tap, Snuff Factory Cottages, Mitford	Nil

Date.	Place of Collection.	Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.
17-6-59	Tap, Vergers Cottage, Hartburn Vicarage, Hartburn	Nil
17-6-59	Tap, School canteen, Hartburn	3
30-6-59	Tap, Beehive Co-operative Premises North Broomhill	25
30-6-59	Tap, No. 2, Simonside Terrace East Chevington	1
9-7-59	Tap, Behive Co-operative Premises North Broomhill	Nil
9-7-59	Standpipe near No. 9, School Row North Broomhill	1
9-7-59	Tap, 33, Elizabeth Street, Widdrington Station	Nil
22-7-59	Tap, 28, Jersey Square, Lynemouth	Nil
22-7-59	Tap, Old Moor Farm Cottage, Longhirst	Nil
22-7-59	Tap, "Seaton Ryde" Tranwell Woods, Morpeth. Probable No. of Bact. coli (Type 1)	1
28-7-59	Tap, Ashgrove, House, Tranwell Farm	Nil
28-7-59	Tap, "Threeways" Tranwell, Morpeth. Probable No. of Bact. coli (Type 1)	1
28-7-59	Tap, "Heatherlea" Tranwell	Nil
11-8-59	Tap, Hutments, Tranwell	Nil
11-8-59	Tap, "Seaton Ryde" Tranwell Woods	Nil
20-10-59	Tap, "The Retreat" East End, Longhorsley	1
3-11-59	Tap, Hillhead Cottage, Longwitton	Nil
3-11-59	Well, Middleton Village, Morpeth	90
3-11-59	Tap, Cottage, High Angerton,	180+
3-11-59	Tap, Newton Red House, Mitford Unsatisfactory (Type 1)	

Drainage and Sewerage.

Cambo The new sewerage scheme for Cambo Village was completed and in operation by March.

Longhirst Colliery. The revised scheme for sewage disposal at Longhirst Colliery at an estimated cost of £2,500 received Ministry approval and work began in October. The new sewers and septic tanks were completed by the end of the year.

Pegswood. The Minister of Housing and Local Government gave approval to a scheme for the enlargement and improvement of the sewage works at Pegswood at an estimated cost £27,000.

Linton. In April it was found that the Council's sewer near the south-east end of Linton Colliery had been badly damaged by subsidence due to mining operations.

It was estimated that the cost of repair would be in the region of £3,800 and a claim was lodged with the National Coal Board.

New Drains.

New drainage systems were installed and connections made to the Council's sewers in the following places.

Longhorsley.	2
Longhirst.	2
Ulghan.	1
Cambo.	1
East Chevington	1

New Drains and Septic Tanks.

New drainage systems with connections to Septic Tanks were provided at:-

Cambo	2
Thirston	1
Longhirst	3
East Chevington	1
Stanton	1
Hartburn	2

Conversions and abolition of conservancy types of sanitary accommodation continued slowly but steadily throughout the year and grants were made to seven applicants under section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, for conversions carried out in the following areas:-

Hartburn	1
Stanton	1
Red Row	1
Ulgham	1
Cambo	3

This is a reduction on the numbers of similar grants in previous years and is probably a natural consequence of the introduction in the current year of the "House Purchase and Housing Act", of which increasing use is being made for the provision in older dwellings of standard amenities.

At the end of the year there still remained in existence, some 200 conservancy type closets, and every effort continues to be made to effect their removal on the earliest possible occasion.

A total of 358 separate visits were made to properties throughout the rural area for the purpose of inspection under various sections for the Public Health and Housing Act.

In no case was it found necessary to adopt formal procedure for repairs to dwellings or for nuisances abatement.

Schools.

Hepscott County Primary School remains the only one without water-carriage sanitation. The expected improvement did not take place and in September the Director of Education informed the Council that, as it was planned to close the school in about 18 months' time, the Education Authority was not prepared to spend any money on improving the premises. The pupils would, then, be transferred to Stobhill School, Morpeth.

Public Cleansing.

Collection and disposal of household refuse throughout the whole of the rural area continued satisfactorily without any alteration of the circumstances previously prevailing.(i.e. Staff and plant) In addition to the actual work involved with the collection and disposal of household refuse, the service was again brought into operation for the levelling of small areas of land near Council housing estates to provide suitable accommodation for private garages, for installing additional litter baskets throughout the district, and for additional duties during the very fine summer in removing litter from the coastal area extending from south of Cresswell Village northward to Druridge.

The estimated weight of refuse collected from a total of 5,275 dwellings and business premises, was 9,648¼ tons and the cost for collection, disposal and ancillary duties amounted to 22/10.56d per ton. The distance travelled by the four motor vehicles engaged on these operations amounted to 34,653 miles.

During the year, informal action was taken for the provision of 125 standard dust bins, and 51 dust bins were provided by the Local Authority.

Refuse Disposal.

The disposal sites at Broomhill, East Chevington, Longhorsley, Lynemouth, Longhirst, Hepscott, Pegswood and Widdrington continued to be used and maintained in such fashion as to keep nuisance from burning and from blown papers to a minimum. This is becoming more difficult with the increase, in domestic refuse, of papers, periodicals and cardboard containers etc.

Every sitewas regularly inspected and test baited for vermin infestations and where necessary, treatments were carried out.

Moveable Dwellings.

There was a steady increase in the demand for caravan sites and present indications suggest that this increase will be maintained and perhaps accelerated in the future.

A total of 68 visits were made in connection with applications under section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, and with the siting, authorised and otherwise, of trailer caravans.

New licences granted to station Moveable Dwellings..... 7
Renewal Licences..... 1
Licence applications refused..... 3

Site Licences.

Number of new licences granted..... 1
Number of new licences refused..... 1

Outline planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, was granted in two cases for the development of caravan sites at Cresswell but no development has as yet occurred.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The rodent operative continues with his duties of regular inspection and, treatment as found necessary, to all Council Properties including buildings, refuse tips, sewers and sewage disposal plants etc. Surveys of business and agricultural premises are made as the operative progresses through the various parts of the rural area.

The following table gives details of the amount of qork undertaken.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses incl. Coun -cil Houses	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of col. (1) (2)&(3)	(5) Agriculture
1. No. of properties in local authority's district.	21	5,129	119	5,275	230
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of					
a) Notification	2	29	11	42	-
b) Survey under the Act	19	550	68	637	32
c) Otherwise, e.g., when visited primarily for some other reason	-	-	-	-	-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	Non-Agricultural				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (incl Coun-cil Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2)&(3)	Agriculture.
3. Total Inspections carried out inc. re-inspections. (to be completed only if figures are readily available)	64	550	68	682	-
4. No. of Properties inspected (inSect. 2) which were found to be infested by:-					
a) Rats (Major	-	-	1	1	-
(Minor	21	73	12	106	5
b) Mice (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	-	20	6	26	1
5. No. of infested properties (in Sect 4) treated by L. A.	21	93	19	133	6
6. Total treatments carried out inc. re-treatments (to be completed only if figures are readily available.	32	93	19	144	6
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
a) Treatment.	-	-	-	-	-
b) Structural Work.(i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the act.	-	-	-	-	-
9. Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	-	-	-	-	-

S E C T I O N D.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1959.

Number of New Houses completed during the year:

a)	By Local Authority.	4
b)	By other Bodies or persons	27

Closing and Demolition.

1.	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	Nil
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	Nil
3.	Houses closed, not demolished	2
4.	Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	Nil

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts

1.	By informal action	13
2.	By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
3.	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
4.	Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

A Discretionary Grants.		No. of separate Houses.
1.	Applications submitted to Local Authority	32 63 properties
2.	Applications rejected	Nil
3.	Applications approved	32
4.	Approximate average grant approved per house	£244-10-6d
5.	Total number of houses approved for grant in your area since the inception of the scheme.	242

B. Standard Grants.

1.	Number of separate houses for which grants were made during the year.	13
2.	Number of houses so provided with:-	
	a) Bath or shower	11
	b) Wash Hand basin	11
	c) Hot water supply	7
	d) Water closet	8
	e) Food Store	7

Slum Clearance.

Demolition Orders. were made in respect of Field House Farm Cottage, Hepscott, a wood structure at Shadfen Park Farm, four cottages at Houndalee, Railway Cottage, Meldon Station and the Snuff Factory Cottage, Mitford.

An undertaking not to re-let the cottage for human habitation was however, accepted in respect of the first-mentioned of these dwellings.

An undertaking, not to re-let the house was also accepted in respect of Newton Underwood Cottage, Mitford.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

The Council continues to be represented at the meetings throughout the year of the Northumberland and Durham Local Authorities Clean Air Committee and several items calculated to reduce pollution of the atmosphere were considered. As a direct result the Building Byelaw relating to the installation, in all new dwellings, of Solid fuel burning appliances, was adopted.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948.

There are in the district 32 factories and workshops, and all have mechanical power. The following table gives the number of inspections made during the year.

There are no outworkers in the area.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L. A.	7	43	Nil	Nil
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A.	25	14	1	Nil
3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworker's premises)	-	3	Nil	Nil
Total	32	70	1	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred. To H.M. Inspector.	Referred. By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness.	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
a) Insufficient.	2	2	-	2	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	3	3	-	2	-

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

No. of registered dairies..... 6

The following is a summary of the bacteriological reports on the samples of milk taken during the year.

Total number of samples taken..... 16
From producers inside the Rural District..... 14
From producers outside the Rural District..... 2

1) Farms Inside the Rural District.

Tuberculin Tested..... 7 samples
3 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.....
4 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.....

Farms Inside the Rural District.

Pasteurised..... 7 samples
7 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.....

2) Farms Outside the Rural District.

Tuberculin Tested..... Nil

Farms Outside the Rural District.

Pasteurised..... 2 samples
2 samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.....

Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exc. cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses.
Number killed if known.	456	-	1	1330	469	-
Number inspected.	456	-	1	1330	469	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole Carcases condemned.....	-	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	246	-	-	7	19	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.....	53.947	-	100%	.526%	4.051%	-
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcases condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	9	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	1.973	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis Only.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following foods were surrendered to the Council's Meat and Public Health Inspectors.

Cooked Ham----------	2 tins	20 lbs	2 ozs
Tender Loin Pork----------	2 "	7 lbs	-
Peas----------	5 "	5 lbs	1 oz
Salmon----------	1 "	-	8 ozs
Tomatoes----------	4 "	3 lbs	2 ozs
Steak----------	2 "	7 lbs	-
Ham----------	1 "	11 lbs	4 ozs
Sliced Beef----------	1 "	1 lb	-
Sliced Peaches----------	1 "	-	15 ozs
Butter Beans----------	1 "	-	8 ozs
Pineapple----------	1 "	1 lb	-
Ham and Tongue----------	1 "	-	7 ozs
Corned Beef----------	1 "	6 lbs	0

Food Premises.

1) The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:-

Butchers----------	6
Bakers----------	2
General Dealers-------	50
	58

2) The number of premises registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Butchers----------	6
Fried Fish Shops------	3
Sale of Ice-Cream-----	31
No. of Registered Dairies----------	6
	46

There were four additions to the register during the year involving registration for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-crean.

In all, a total of 344 visits were made to food premises and I am pleased to report that the general standard of hygiene and cleanliness remains good and that in minor instances only was informal action necessary to effect improvement. Every effort is made to encourage the use of disposable towelling for hand drying in food premises but as yet no great success has resulted.

S E C T I O N F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years.	3 - 4 years.	5 - 9 years.	10 - 14 years.	15 - 24 years.	25 - 34 years.	35 - 44 years.	45 - 54 years.	55 - 64 years.	65 - 74 years.	75 years & over.	TOTAL.
Dysentery.	4	10	8	16	8	6	5	2	3	-	-	-	62
Scarlet Fever.	-	1	1	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles.	6	59	58	126	8	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	259
Whooping Cough.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total.....	10	73	67	154	21	7	6	4	4	1	-	1	348

Infectious Disease.

Measles. A small number of cases of this disease occurred during the first three months of the year and then the number of notifications increased to 38 in April and to 78 in May.

In June there was a slight fall, with 65 cases notified, followed by a decline to 32 cases in July and 23 in August. Only one case was notified in September and, thereafter the outbreak ceased.

Most parts of the Rural District were affected. There were 34 cases in Linton in April and May, 26 in Widdrington area in May and 44 in the Pegswood area in June. The age-groups mainly affected were, as usual, those between 1 year and 9 years. No deaths occurred.

Sonne Dysentery. This disease was, again, somewhat prevalent during 1959. It began in the Broomhill area in February and appeared to be a continuation of an outbreak which had begun shortly before, in a town in an adjoining district, with which Broomhill residents have many connections. The local schools did not seem to be centres of infection to any great extent for, out of 33 cases notified or discovered in Broomhill and East Chevington only 5 were school children, while 9 were over 15 years of age and 19 were under 5 years of age. Fourteen of the pre-school children belonged to families where there was no school child or no school child appeared to be infected. This outbreak had subsided by the end of March.

Towards the end of April a report was received from Longhorsley School that an illness characterised by cough, sore throat, vomiting and diarrhoea had been affecting the children and staff over a period of several months. Second attacks of the illness had been fairly common.

Investigation showed the presence of Sonne Dysentery among certain pupils but the history and characteristics of the outbreak as a whole suggested the possibility of a concurrent virus infection. Consequently the matter was reported to the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Newcastle and a virological investigation was carried out but with negative results.

Altogether 16 cases of Dysentery and one symptomless carrier were discovered.

A few sporadic cases, occurred in other parts of the Rural District and, one of these, a schoolboy, continued to harbour the infection for more than 7 months.

Diphtheria. For the tenth consecutive year there was no case of this disease which has caused no deaths since 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year 286 pre-school and 19 school children completed a primary course of treatment, while 120 pre-school and 405 school children received re-inforcing injections.

It is estimated that, at 31.12.59 the immunity indices for the different age-groups were as follows:-

Children under 1 year----------	31.1%
Children aged 1 - 4 years----------	84.76%
Children aged 5 - 14 years----------	66.11%
All children under 15 years----------	69.09%

The figures for pre-school children are very satisfactory. With the relaxation of the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign towards the end of the year it became possible to resume diphtheria immunisation in the schools and this is reflected in the somewhat improved index for school children, compared with that in 1958.

There is room for further improvement.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination. In the autumn of 1958 the upper age limit for vaccination was raised to 25 years but the young people showed little interest in it until the spring of 1959, when the death a well-known footballer, from Poliomyelitis resulted in a rush for vaccination. For a time, the demand was almost over-whelming and, in an effort to meet it open sessions without appointments were held in the Town Hall, Morpeth, in the Child Welfare Centres at Ashington and Broomhill and visits were made to carry out vaccination at all factories, while the Medical Officer of the National Coal Board vaccinated large numbers at the collieries. The vast majority of those who registered for vaccination completed the primary course of two injections and also returned for the third injection after 7 months.

Separate figures are not available for the Rural District but those for the whole of the Central Area of the County may be of interest.

During 1959, the primary course was completed by 7,918 persons and a third injection was given to 9,386.

At 31st December 1959 it was estimated that, since the commencement of the campaign, 14,111 children and 5,293 persons in other groups had received two injections and 12,793 persons in all eligible groups had received a third injection.

T U B E R C U L O S I S .

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959.

Age Groups.	NEW CASES. Resp M.	Resp F.	Non-resp. M.	Non-resp. F.	Total	DEATHS. Resp M.	Resp F.	Non-resp. M.	Non-resp. F.	Total
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years.	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total.	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

There were notified during the year 1 case of respiratory and 1 case of non-respiratory tuberculosis, a decrease of 4 and 2 respectively on the corresponding figures for 1958.

There were no deaths from this disease.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D. Nil

Death. Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales. 0.077 per 1000

Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D. Nil

Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales. 0..008 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1959.

SITE.	Males.					Females.						
	45 - 54 yrs.	55 - 64 yrs.	65 - 74 yrs.	75 yrs & over.	TOTAL.	25 - 34 yrs.	35 - 44 yrs.	45 - 54 yrs.	55 - 64 yrs.	65 - 74 yrs.	75 yrs & over.	TOTAL.
Tongue.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oesophagus.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thyroid.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Lung.	1	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stomach.	-	1	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Pancreas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Peritoneum.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colon.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Cervix.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
Prostate.	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bladder.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Unknown.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total.	2	3	4	4	13	1	-	5	3	3	4	16

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District.	0.172 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	0.464 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District.	1.493 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	1.676 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District.	1.665 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales.	2.140 per 1,000